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ABSTRACT

The discussion of the role of verbal interaction in second language learning focuses on the process the learner undergoes in acquiring linguistic knowledge in a second- or foreign-language (L2) situation. The introductory section provides a general discussion of language learning and the acquisition of both linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge. Subsequent chapters address these topics: Chapter 1, linguistic theories of language learning, both generative and functional; chapter 2, L2 conversation and shifts in interaction; chapter 3, L2 conversation and the acquisition process; chapter 4, application of Vygotskyan concepts to a second language acquisition theory; chapter 5, levels of analysis of the process of L2 acquisition; chapter 6, L2 interaction and the zone of proximal development; chapter 7, formats of native/non-native speaker interaction and the occurrence of moments of understanding; and chapter 8, classification of these occurrences. The final chapter draws conclusions from the preceding discussion, comments on the language immersion situation, and discusses further directions for research. Contents are indexed. Contains 197 references. (MSE)

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